

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-01
OMB-01 ITC-01 CTME-00 L-03 ICA-20 AID-05 NSC-05
SS-15 CEA-01 /110 W
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R 180755Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0495
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS TOKYO 14948

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE POTENTIAL CASE-AFIA

REF: STATE 191931

SUMMARY: JAPANESE FOOTWEAR IMPORTS SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO TFC AT PRESENT. HOWEVER, FURTHER STUDY OF CASE WILL BE MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTENTS OF REFTEL WERE DISCUSSED WITH SHEPHERD AND GLICK DURING THEIR STAY IN TOKYO. WE POUCHED A CURRENT LIST OF LEATHER QUOTA HOLDERS TO EA/J LAST FEBRUARY (GLICK ALSO HAS COPY). OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON FOOTWEAR QUOTA LEVELS AND ALLOCATIONS HAS MET WITH NOT ONLY RELUCTANCE BUT OUTRIGHT REFUSAL BY GOJ AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS.

2. IT WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE IN OUR INTEREST TO TRY TO SEPARATE LEATHER FOOTWEAR FROM THE WIDER ISSUE OF TANNED LEATHER IMPORTS--THEY ARE CLEARLY NOT SEPARATE TO THE JAPANESE. QUOTAS, TARIFFS, ZEALOUS CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AND SECRETIVE PROCEDURES ON IMPORT ALLO-
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CATIONS FOR LEATHER FOOTWEAR ARE, AS FOR TANNED LEATHER, PART OF A VERY SENSITIVE POLITICAL/SOCIAL PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN DEALT WITH EXTENSIVELY IN CABLES DURING THE PAST YEAR.

3. IN VIEW OF OUR PRESENT ARTICLE 301 AND GATT COMPLAINTS CONCERNING JAPANESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON LEATHER, WE DO NOT THINK THAT A TFC COMPLAINT ON

LEATHER FOOTWEAR WILL PROVE USEFUL AT THE PRESENT TIME.
IN THE MEANTIME WE PLAN TO MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES AT
THE JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO RECOMMEND
THIS AS A TFC CASE.

MANSFIELD

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